

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in this application. For reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 15 and 17-19 as outlined in the Office Action mailed January 30, 2006 ("the Office Action") and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the above-identified application.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,786,884 to DeCant, Jr. et al. ("DeCant"). DeCant discloses bolus tip embodiments for a multi-lumen catheter. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3 reproduced below, bolus tip 200 is coupled to a catheter 10 and includes an interfacing section 205, a first section 210, a second section 220, a dividing section 230, and a nose section 240. First section 210 and dividing section 230 define a first channel 212 which terminates at a first bolus cavity 214 which defines an access point for ingress and egress of fluids to and from catheter 10. Second section 220 includes a second interfacing section 226 which defines a second channel 222 with dividing section 230. Second channel 222 opens into a second bolus cavity 224 located between first bolus cavity 214 and a tip portion 242 of nose section 240. Tip portion 242 of nose section 240 is rounded to prevent unnecessary trauma to the vein of a patient. First bolus cavity 214 and second bolus cavity 224 are created by removing a U-shaped portion from bolus tip 200. DeCant discloses that the U-shaped design is beneficial in that it prevents occlusions by providing both top and side access to the channels and limits the tendency of whipping by acting to slow down passage of fluids.

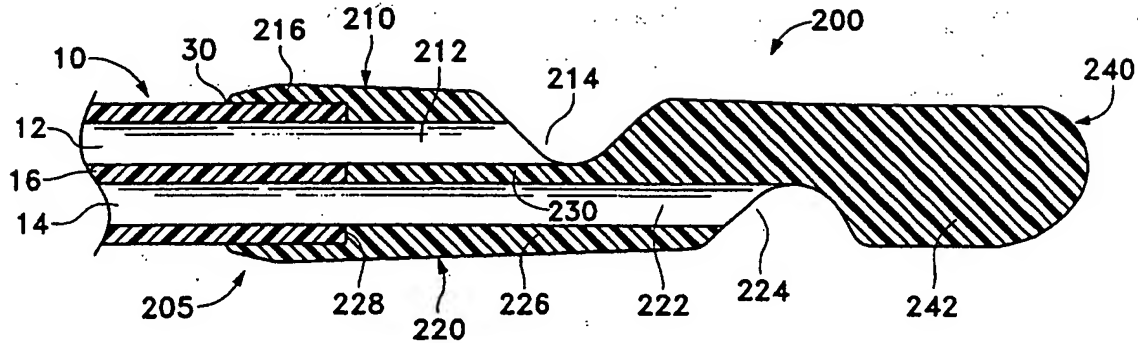


FIG. 3

Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 15 and 17-19 include three independent claims including Claims 1, 8 and 13. Each of independent Claims 1, 8 and 13 recite a catheter including, inter alia, a first wall defining a first lumen, wherein the “first wall includes a first wall extension that extends” beyond or from the first lumen “in a spiral configuration”. As discussed in Applicant’s response mailed October 26, 2005, “a spiral” is “a curve on a plane that winds around a fixed center point at a continuously increasing or decreasing distance from the point.” A spiral may also be defined as a three dimensional curve that turns around an axis at a constant or continuously varying distance while moving parallel to the axis.

Applicant respectfully submits that DeCant fails to disclose or suggest a catheter which includes, inter alia, a first wall having a first wall extension that extends beyond or from the first lumen “in a spiral configuration”. As discussed above, DeCant’s bolus tip includes a pair of U-shaped recesses which define first and second bolus cavities”, not a first wall extension that extends beyond the lumen wall or from the lumen wall “in a spiral configuration” as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action. As such, each of independent Claims 1, 8 and

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13 is patentable over DeCant.

Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 17-19 depend on one of independent Claims 1, 8 and 13. For at least the reason discussed above with respect to Claims 1, 8 and 13, Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 17-19 are also patentable over DeCant.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 11, 14 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicant believes that all of the Claims as they stand are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, no further amendment of the claims will be made at this time.

Early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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